



**VIRGINIA FUSION CENTER
VIRGINIA STATE POLICE
(877) 4VA-TIPS
VFC@vsp.virginia.gov**



DAILY MEDIA REPORT

September 15, 2006

POTENTIAL THREATS TO U.S. OR U.S. INTERESTS

Al-Qa'ida Issues Threats Against France

The videotape of al-Qa'ida's deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahiri that appeared on the Internet on Monday has been met with concern by the French government, as Zawahiri declared that the Algerian group Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) had joined with al-Qa'ida. The GSPC, whose goal is to establish an Islamic state in Algeria, has singled out France as its number one enemy and has issued a call for action against the country. Yesterday, France's Interior Minister said that Zawahiri's comments reiterated that France is a potential target for terrorism.

VFC Analyst Note: *The Algerian population in France, estimated at 1,550,000, has had difficulty integrating into French society. Failure to integrate has been blamed on racism in French society, causing frustration and anger for Algerians in France. This environment of discontent could prove to be a fertile recruiting ground for GSPC or other Jihadist groups.*

Source: [BBC News](#)

Travel Warning For Syria Issued

Today, the U.S. Department of State issued a travel warning to alert U.S. citizens of increased security concerns in Syria. This warning comes after the unsuccessful attack this week against the U.S. Embassy in Damascus wherein assailants used vehicle born improvised explosive devices in an attempt to damage and/or injure U.S. interests in Syria. American citizens in Syria are urged to consider their personal security and to consider leaving the country.

Source: [U.S. Department of State](#)

KKK Not Welcome in Kentucky Parade

The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) has acknowledged plans to participate in the annual Fairdale Fair Parade on September 23 in Kentucky. A spokesman for the small Kentucky town stated that the group applied three different times to participate in the parade and each application was denied. However, a KKK spokesman reported that the board did grant another application under a resident's name. The KKK hopes to spread their propaganda and believes that marching the parade will reach more people in one appearance than they could by other means. Local police are not expecting any trouble.

from the group, stating that the media coverage surrounding the potential appearance has more than satisfied the Klan's aim at spreading their message and affirming their existence.

Source: [WAVE 3 TV](#)

Al-Qa'ida Style Attacks on Oil Refineries in Yemen

Yemeni news reports have indicated that two oil refineries were the targets of failed suicide attacks earlier today, which are being blamed on al-Qa'ida. The refineries were spared when the attacker's vehicle born improvised explosive devices (VBIED) detonated prematurely. If the VBIEDs had hit their target, it would have been a large scale tragedy for the nation that has vowed to crack down on al-Qa'ida activities. This is the first reported incident wherein VBIEDs have been used in Yemen and the attempted attacks coincide with the country's upcoming presidential election.

VFC Analyst Note: *Yemen has proven to be a fertile recruiting ground for al-Qa'ida as a recent study indicates that 17 percent of foreign fighters in Iraq are citizens of Yemen. The Yemeni military, local population, and security apparatuses have shown sympathy for al-Qa'ida, while the government of Yemen has shown a reluctance to confront Islamists within the country.*

Source: [AKI](#)

Senior al-Qa'ida Leader Slain in Iraq

Abu Jaafar al-Liby, believed to be the right hand man to the al-Qa'ida leader in Iraq, Abu Ayyub al-Masri, was killed this week along with four other militants. Officials have stated that Al-Liby headed up al-Qa'ida operations in the al-Rasafa and al-Karrada neighborhoods of Baghdad. On his person, al-Liby reportedly had two letters: one for Usama bin Laden and one for Abu Ayub al-Masri. In addition, 70 suspected terrorists were captured in a series of 25 raids in and around Baghdad, to include an unnamed associate of al-Qa'ida in Iraq's new leader.

Source: [AKI](#)

Cult Leader to Hang for Gas Attack

Shoko Asahara, the former cult leader found responsible for the Sarin gas attack during rush hour in the Tokyo subway in 1995, had his final appeal against the death penalty rejected by Japan's Supreme Court today. Asahara, the former leader of the Aum Shinri Kyo or Supreme Truth Sect, was found guilty of masterminding the attack that killed 12 and injured thousands of others and sentenced to death by a Tokyo court in 2004. Asahara, whose real name is Chizuo Matsumoto, was also found guilty of other charges, including a series of crimes which resulted in the deaths of 15 people.

Source: [CNN](#)

Liquid Explosives Detection Deemed Priority for DHS

DHS officials were questioned by Congress this week as to why advances have not been made faster to address the threat of liquid explosives. Officials reported that the day after the London based plot to explode airliners destined for the U.S. was discovered, a program soliciting the industry for detection devices was initiated. In response, over 40 proposals were received and are being tested using 500 milliliter-sized bottles filled with the same liquid explosives terrorists have been known to use. When a liquid explosive detection proposal is chosen, it will be put on the acquisition fast track and will fall under the department's Safety Act program which protects

contractors from liability and lawsuits in the event their technology fails to prevent a terrorist attack.

Source: [Government Executive](#)

Air Cargo Faces Tighter Screening

While the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has greatly increased airline passenger safety since the September 11 attacks, gaps still remain in screening procedures. Until Thursday, only ten percent of bulk cargo and courier packages were inspected due to the increasingly stringent screening requirements for airline passengers and their luggage. A new directive was signed into law requiring that all cargo undergo the same screening used for passenger luggage, to include passing the cargo through X-ray and explosive sensors. The TSA had announced in May of this year that criminal background checks would be mandatory for airline and freight workers and that screeners would inspect packages delivered to ticket counters.

Source: [Associated Press](#)